

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03268 050821Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /098 W
-----051734Z 011430 /53

R 050528Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8221
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3268

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US, SA
SUBJECT: ERITREAN REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 100281

1. DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THERE WERE U.S. CITIZEN HOSTAGES
OF ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THE EMBASSY WAS AUTHORIZED
TO INFOMR THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING
TO MEET WITH ERITREAN REPRESNATTIES IN CONNECTION WITH
OBTAINING THEIR RELEASE AND THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING
TO LISTEN TO WHATEVER THEY HAD TO SAY BUT THAT WE WOULD
NOT NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINEES. IN THE
EVENT, THE HOSTAGES WERE REALEASED WITHOUT OUR HAVING MET
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WITH ERITREAN REPS.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR RELEASE, THE DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN
AND ASIAN AFFARIS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SUGGESTED THAT
IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO MEET WITH
ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES. SINCE THE ORIGINAL AUTHORIZATION
TO MEET WITH ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES WAS LIMITED TO THE

MATTER OF THE HOSTAGES, WE LET THE MATTER DROP. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT RAISED IT SINCE.

3. WE AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT WE WOULD BE WELL PLACED TO HAVE OCCASIONAL CONTACT WITH ERITREANS. IT COULD EASILY HAPPEN IF WE WERE TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THEIR PREVIOUS REQUEST, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES IF THE ERITREANS WERE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING SUCH A MEETING. WE COULD COUNT ON THE SAUDIS TO BE DISCREET AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM TO GET THEM TO IMPRESS ON THE ERITREANS THE NEED FOR DISCRETION. IT MIGHT BE LESS EASY TO CONTROL THE LEVEL OF THE MEETING ON THE ERITREAN SIDE IF THEY ARE PARTICULARLY EAGER TO HAVE CONTACT WIT US.

4. AN ADVANTAGE OF SEEING ERITREANS IN JIDDA WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SAG IS THAT IT MIGHT MAKE THE SAG EVEN MORE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED TO FOSTER MODERATION AMONG THE ERITREANS, BOTH IN TERMS OF POLITICAL LEANINGS AND ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES--THOUGH THESE ARE SUBJECTS WE WOULD PRESUMBABLY NOT WISH TO DISCUSS EXPLICITLY WITH THE SAUDIS.

PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ERITREANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 2633590
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TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, ET, US, SA
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